

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE YOUTH FESTIVAL, 1974:

SUPERFRANCOFETE

1. SUMMARY. SUPERFRANCOFETE ENDED AUG 24 WITHOUT EXPERIENCING ANY MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS. FRENCH QUEBEC MOVEMENT ELEMENTS DID SOME HECKLING AND HAITIAN OPPOSITIONISTS TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE. DAHOMEY WAS DISATISFIED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS THEATRICAL PRODUCTION AND WITHDREW. VIETNAMESE FILM WAS JEERED. JEUNE AFRIQUE CORRESPONDENTS TOOK A DIM VIEW. CROWDS WERE WELL BEHAVED AND THE POLICE WERE TOLERANT AND ADROIT IN HANDLING THEM ALTHOUGH THE TOLERANCE DID NOT EXTEND TO DRUG PUSHERS. THE FACT THAT THE FESTIVAL DEVELOPED ESSENTIALLY INTO AN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE QUEBECOIS AND THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS GAVE IT A SPECIAL CHARACTER AND COLOR WHICH DID MUCH TO ENHANCE ITS SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. SUPERFRANCOFETE, WITH 26 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING QUEBEC, OPENED AUG 13 AND ENDED AT MIDNIGHT AUG 24 AND ITS 1,600 DELEGATES, 300 STAFF MEMBERS AND 612 ACCREDITED CORRESPONDENTS, INCLUDING ABOUT 100 FROM ABROAD, BEGAN TO DISPERSE. ACCORDING TO LE SOLEIL FETE REMAINED WITHIN ITS 2.5 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET. ESTIMATES OF TOTAL SPECTATORS DURING 12 DAY PERIOD RANGED FROM 500,00 TO 800,000. HOTELS AND GUEST HOUSES WERE FULL AND OTHER

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SECTORS OF TOURIST INDUSTRY WERE FULLY EMPLOYED. AUTHORITIES

HANDLED FORMIDABLE PROTOCOL, LOGISTICS, TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS VERY EFFICIENTLY. WEATHER WAS GOOD, AVERAGING 11 HOURS OF SUNSHINE PER DAY IN LIEU OF THE NORMAL 7 HOURS PER DAY FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. THERE WERE NO UNFAVORABLE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF ANY CONSEQUENCE.

3. OTTAWA AND QUEBEC AUTHORITIES DIFFERED INITIALLY OVER FLAG RAISING AND COMPOSITION AND STRENGTH OF RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS BUT THIS ASPECT QUICKLY FADED IN IMPORTANCE. FRENCH QUEBEC MOVEMENT ELEMENTS HECKLED PRIME MINISTERS TRUDEAU AND BOURASSA, BOOED SENEGALESE REPRESENTATIVE WHO MADE CLEAR AFRICANS' INTENTION TO STAY OUT OF CANADIAN AFFAIRS AND HARASSED SOME FRANCOPHONE MEMBERS OF CANADIAN DELEGATION FROM OTHER PROVINCES. HOWEVER THESE ELEMENTS ATTRACTED LITTLE SYMPATHY OR ATTENTION OVERALL. THEY REPORTEDLY SENT ALL DELEGATIONS A 40-PAGE PAMPHLET ON THEIR VIEWS OF 'QUEBEC REALITIES'. A SMALL GROUP OF OPPOSITION HAITIANS TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE DURING A HAITIAN PERFORMANCE IN THE PARC DES GOUVERNEURS AUG 17 BUT WERE KEPT AT A DISTANCE AND, AGAIN, ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION. LE SOLEIL AUG 24 REPORTED THAT 4 OF THEM, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FLAGS AND PAMPHLETS HAD BEEN DETAINED ON THE 17TH FOR 3 HOURS BY THE CITY POLICE. THE SAME PAPER SUGGESTED THAT 6 OF THE 66 STRONG HAITIAN DELEGATION HAD TAKEN 'FRENCH LEAVE' AND WOULD TRY TO STAY IN QUEBEC OR MAKE THEIR WAY TO NEW YORK.

4. THERE WAS MORE OF A FUSS OVER DECISION BY MAJORITY OF CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENCY (SENEGAL, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI, UPPER VOLTA, MALI, NIGER, TOGO, TUNISIA AND IVORY COAST) TO CANCEL PRESENTATION OF GENET'S 'LES NOIRS'. DAHOMEY DISSENTED ON GROUNDS OF UNWILLINGNESS TO GO BACK ON PREVIOUS DECISION AND BELIEF THAT PRESENTATION OF 'BITTER TRUTH THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE WAS AS IMPORTANT AS MUSIC AND DANCE.

5. THIS APPARENTLY LED INTO A FURTHER DISPUTE ABOUT TIMING OF PRESENTATION OF 90 MINUTE DAHOMEAN THEATRICAL ON PRE-COLONIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM. DAHOMEY WANTED TO START AT 2030 HOURS AND BE FOLLOWED BY UPPER VOLTA AND CAMEROUN MUSIC AND DANCE. LATTER COUNTRIES REFUSED LATER BILLING. ON AUG 21 DAHOMEY DELEGATION CHIEF ANNOUNCED 'CESSATION OF ALL ACTIVITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM.'

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6. VIETNAMESE FILM PRESENTATION WAS JEERED AND DELEGATION RERAN IT THE NEXT DAY FOR THE PRESS. CORRESPONDENTS FOR JEUNE AFRIQUE IN ARTICLE ENTITLED 'LA FETE DES COLONISES' SUGGESTED THAT THE FRENCH LANGUAGE HAD BEEN USED IN THE FESTIVAL AS AN INSTRUMENT OF OPPRESSION IN THE HANDS OF A MINORITY 'SOLD OUT' KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWNLY TO IMPERIALIST INTERESTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS. ANOTHER ARTICLE COMMENTED ON THE LOW KEY ROLE OF THE FRENCH REPRESENTATION. WE UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH WANTED IT THAT WAY SINCE THEY DID NOT WISH

TO DOMINATE THE FESTIVAL OR TURN IT INTO A 'COMMONWEALTH' TYPE OF PRODUCTION.

7. CROWDS WERE GOOD NATURED AND POLICE WERE TOLERANT AND ADROIT IN HANDLING LARGE GROUPS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE 'FRENCH WOODSTOCK' ON THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM THE NIGHT OF AUG 13. THE ARMY SET UP FIRST AID TENTS INCLUDING FACILITIES FOR TREATMENT OF DRUG OVER DOSES. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS POLICE WERE INITIALLY UNCONCERNED WITH INDIVIDUAL MARIJUANA SMOKERS BUT MAINTAINED PRESSURE ON DRUG PUSHERS, ARRESTING 40 BY AUG 22. BY AUG 23 THEY BEGAN CRACKING DOWN ON BOTH MARIJUANA USERS AND DRUG PUSHERS ON THE LAVAL CAMPUS AND IN THE LATIN QUARTER, MAKING 3 ARRESTS ON THE PLAINS, 15 ON THE CAMPUS AND 7 IN TOWN.

8. COMMENT: THE PREPONDERANCE OF AFRICAN DELEGATIONS AND THE EXOTIC NATURE OF THE AFRICAN COSTUMES, INSTRUMENTS, ARTS, CRAFTS, SONGS AND DANCES TURNED THE FESTIVAL ESSENTIALLY INTO AN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE QUEBECOIS AND THE AFRICANS. THIS DEVELOPMENT DID MUCH TO SUSTAIN PUBLIC INTEREST AND ENHANCE THE SUCCESS OF THE FESTIVAL.

9. DEPT PLS PASS SAIGON , PORT-AU-PRINCE, PARIS, DAKAR, YAOUNDE, BANGUI, COTONOU, OUAGADOUGOU, BAMAKO, NIAMEY, LOME, TUNIS, ABIJAN. CORCORAN

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